

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB GODFREY

## Working for Danbury - 2006

*"Danbury is my lifelong hometown. Danbury comes first."*

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 regular legislative session has come to a close, and I would like to share some of our accomplishments with you. We provided tax relief, job growth, consumer protection, increased access to health care and innovative programs to ensure healthy lives for our children. We produced a balanced budget and deposited \$305.1 million in the Rainy Day Fund. The fund will total \$971 million, the highest level ever. Our cities and towns received a fair share of the surplus - \$33 million - for property tax relief, and the Teachers' Retirement Fund was fully funded for the next two years.

I am proud to report new tax credits and additional funding for local initiatives in Danbury, which will improve the quality-of-life for all of us. Despite only a 12-week session, one of the shortest on record, we rolled up our sleeves and crafted legislation that addressed many pressing needs in our communities. I am pleased to report 2006 was a year of creative and bold solutions.

Best regards,



### BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS HOME

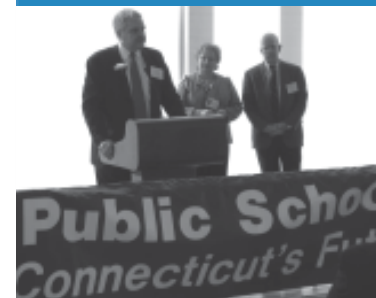
FY 06-07 Governor's Estimated	FY 06-07 Final Proposal	FY 2006 Agreement With Legislature
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#### TOTAL STATUTORY FORMULA GRANTS

<b>\$25,189,086</b>	<b>\$25,477,755</b>	<b>\$26,006,962</b>
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#### HERE IS A QUICK GLANCE AT A FEW HIGHLIGHTED AREAS OF FUNDING FOR DANBURY THROUGH THE YEAR 2007:

Education Cost Sharing Grant	\$17,373,813	\$17,588,819	\$17,588,819
Priority School District	\$2,078,921	\$2,078,921	\$2,415,073
Payment in Lieu of Taxes: State Owned Real Property	\$1,557,574	\$1,763,709	\$1,831,410
Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund Grant	\$1,460,842	\$1,502,753	\$1,502,753
Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Colleges and Hospitals	\$1,354,195	\$1,179,812	\$1,275,656
Public School Transportation	\$740,347	\$740,347	\$740,347
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$411,480	\$411,480	\$440,990
Non-Public School Transportation	\$211,914	\$211,914	\$211, 914




Bob receives the  
Connecticut Association  
of Boards of Education  
Legislator of the Year  
Award



Bob with students from  
Danbury High School  
visiting the Capitol



Bob presides over the  
House Chamber

**Bob GODFREY**   
110th District  
state representative

Bob introducing members of the UConn Men's Basketball team on Husky Day at the Capitol  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4107  
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### DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE

On February 24, 2006, a group of students from Danbury High School traveled from home to screen their documentary video on the genocide occurring in the Sudan. Students joined State Treasurer Denise Nappier, state officials, legislators and other organizations in support of the efforts to divest state funds invested in Sudan.

This effort was a response to the ongoing genocide in the country's Darfur region. The state believes it is necessary to deprive the Sudanese government of resources that may be helping support these horrific crimes.

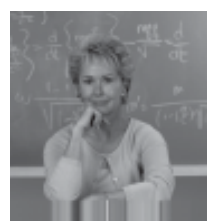
I am proud of our high school students who took the time to research information, process data, and assemble a powerful presentation of the current crisis. This movement has gained increasing strength and momentum thanks to the devoted efforts of our youth. I am happy to report the bill passed. **(PA 06-51)**



Bob with State Treasurer Denise Nappier, Rep. Janice Giegler, Rep. Hank Bielawa, Assistant Principal Timothy Salem and students from Danbury High School who gave a presentation on the crisis in Sudan

### TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

Great strides were made with respect to the **Teachers' Retirement Fund**. For the first time in years, we fully funded the Teachers' Retirement Fund for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year for a total of **\$245.6 million**. One of the session's disappointments was the failure to adopt a long-term plan to fully fund the retirement fund. It is my hope that we will continue to work towards that end. We need to keep our promises.



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CALL ME FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THIS YEAR'S:  
Laws For Seniors • Laws For Children • Education Laws  
Environment Laws • Major Public Acts • Laws for Businesses

# Bob Godfrey: Putting Danbury First

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

### *Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

The General Assembly adopted a comprehensive plan to increase job growth in Connecticut through tax credits, tax cuts, grants and training.

As we work on our infrastructure, we must also continue our focus on job creation and retention. Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Plan includes:

- Elimination of the 15% corporation tax surcharge for 2007
- Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Property Tax over five years to attract more manufacturing jobs
- A job creation tax credit for creating at least 50 new jobs
- New tax credits for movie and digital media productions in Connecticut **(PA 06-83)**

### *Health Care Initiatives*

#### COVERAGE FOR CANCER SCREENING

Women with family histories or personal histories of breast cancer and those with dense breast tissue will have insurance coverage for a comprehensive ultrasound screening under certain individual and group health insurance policies, as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Research has shown supplemental ultrasound increases detection from 48% to 97% for women with dense breast tissue. **(PA 06-38)**

#### CO-PAY LIMITS ON IMAGING SERVICES

It was time to set some limits on co-pays for in-network MRIs, CAT scans and PET scans. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, certain individual and group health insurance policies will be restricted to the following co-pay rules: (1) an annual maximum of \$375 for all MRIs and CAT scans, with a limit of \$75 per test, and (2) an annual maximum of \$400 for PET scans, with a limit of \$100 per test. **(PA 06-180)**



#### ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Physical therapists meeting certain standards will be able to treat patients directly, without referral from another health care practitioner, except in cases involving workers' compensation injuries and a specific kind of spinal manipulation. **(PA 06-125)**

## Health and Safety for our Children

### HEALTHY FOOD AND BEVERAGES IN SCHOOLS

Our '2020 Vision for Connecticut's Children' will re-direct state dollars spent on children away from crisis services and toward preventative programs for children. With increasing attention devoted to the problem of childhood obesity, the Healthy Schools Initiative was passed to reinforce healthy eating habits at schools. The toughest law in the nation, **Public Act 06-03**, bans the sale of soda and sugary beverages and gives incentives to schools that offer healthy food and snacks for purchase by students.

The bill restricts the types of beverages sold at school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and fund-raising activities on school grounds. It requires the Department of Education to establish nutritional standards for food sold to students in school while providing a financial incentive to public schools who choose healthy foods and snacks. For each lunch served that meets these standards in the prior school year, the school will receive a 10-cent bonus in state matching funds from the national program.

### NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

In an effort to provide students with a healthy start to the school day, this bill establishes a pilot program that provides grants to the 10 severe-need schools to help start up a school breakfast program. Eligible schools must include the number of students who will now receive a nutritious breakfast in their application. **(PA 06-135)**



### UNDERAGE DRINKING

Many promising young lives have been needlessly lost as a result of underage drinking. Studies show that 77% of high school students report they obtained alcohol in their homes, with or without their parents' consent. A new law makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage alcohol possession on private property, or not make reasonable efforts to prevent such activity. Exemptions for your own children, or for religious or medical reasons, were granted. **(PA 06-112)**

### HEALTHY KIDS INITIATIVE

I am proud to report the passage of legislation that will make health coverage more accessible for all of Connecticut's children by removing a number of obstacles that families previously had to navigate to enroll and keep children in HUSKY A and B.

Connecticut is leading the way in healthcare for children by providing affordable and accessible healthcare for the 71,000 children in our state that are currently uncovered. This plan eliminates waste in the system, makes enrollment easier, and guarantees children will receive necessary screening, diagnostic services, and treatment. This new law will assure that these vital services are available for our children regardless of any changes on the federal level. **(PA 06-187)**

### CONNECTICUT GROWN FOODS IN SCHOOLS

In an effort to encourage students to eat well, the legislature voted to create a farm-to-school program to promote the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products to school districts by the Department of Agriculture in consultation with the State Department of Education. **(PA 06-135)**

### ANTI-BULLYING LEGISLATION

In an effort to reduce the incidence of bullying among school children, the General Assembly passed legislation which expands the definition of bullying to include incidents of harassment that occur on the school bus and strengthens local policies to enable students to report bullying acts anonymously. The bill also requires that local policy offer case-by-case interventions, which may include counseling and disciplinary action to students who repeatedly bully and students who are frequently bullied. Finally, the bill increases awareness of bullying through parental notification of incidents. **(PA 06-115)**



## ADDRESSING YOUR ISSUES

### *Cutting Your Taxes*

For residents, the goal was to reduce the property tax burden - and we did! I am proud to report the legislature was able to provide real tax relief for residents by increasing the property tax credit from \$400 to \$500 on the 2006 income tax. This year we made significant changes by showing real savings.



For personal use, the goal was to offer more opportunities for Connecticut residents to use energy-saving technology. Hybrid passenger cars with EPA estimated highway ratings of at least 40 miles-per-gallon are exempt from the 6% state sales tax. In addition, the "Sales Tax Holiday" on weatherization products has been extended until June 2007. These products will make our homes energy efficient and begin to reduce our cooling and heating costs.

For businesses, the goal has always been to help foster a healthy business climate and job growth. We phased out the manufacturing property tax, eliminated the corporate tax surcharge for 2007 and created targeted tax credits for the film and entertainment industry.

### *Consumer Protection*

The legislature passed several bills to protect you from consumer fraud and identity theft. These bills will:

- ◆ Protect purchasers of prepaid funeral contracts through escrow accounts and notification of a change in ownership or closing of a funeral home. **(PA 06-87)**
- ◆ Protect consumers from replacement air bag distributors that do not meet the federal safety standards. **(PA 06-25)**
- ◆ Protect consumers from having their telephone records sold, obtained, or received without their consent. **(PA 06-96)**
- ◆ Require home heating oil and propane suppliers to disclose in writing all purchaser's costs. **(PA 06-65)**
- ◆ Make it illegal to obtain the information on the electronic strip of a credit card or transfer that information to another credit card without the permission of the owner. **(PA 06-60)**
- ◆ Make it illegal to send e-mail messages with the intent to solicit information such as Social Security numbers or bank account information by pretending to be an on-line business. **(PA 06-50)**